



Rio Tinto Ridgeway Gold Mine Office
PO Box 1240
Lugoff, SC 29078

January 10, 2018

Sent via Electronic Mail and Overnight Courier

Director, Emergency and Remedial Response Division
Attn: Chief, New Jersey Remediation Branch, Pohatcong Site
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

New Jersey Superfund Branch
Office of Regional Counsel
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 2
290 Broadway, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10007
Attention: Attorney for Pohatcong Site

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
ATTN.: Fred Mumford
380 Scotch Road
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628
(*via electronic mail only*)

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 15
Reporting Period December 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017
Operable Unit 3
Pohatcong Valley Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site
Warren County, New Jersey

Dear Pohatcong Consent Decree Notice Recipients:

On behalf of Pechiney Plastics Packaging, Inc. (PPPI), the Primary Settling Defendant for the Remedial Design/Remedial Action Consent Decree (CD)¹, this monthly progress report is submitted in compliance with section X, paragraph 30 of the CD and section IV.A of the

¹ In the matter of United States of America v. PPPI (Civil Action No. 09-cv-05692) and United States of America v. Bristol Myers Squibb Company, et. al. (Civil Action No. 13-cv-05798) effective March 11, 2015.

Statement of Work for Remedial Design and Remedial Action for Operable Unit 3 (OU3 SOW) ² of the Pohatcong Valley Groundwater Contamination Superfund (PVGCS) Site. As required by the OU3 SOW, this report provides a description of the actions and activities undertaken pursuant to the CD during this reporting period and plans, actions and data scheduled in the next eight weeks.

Actions Taken toward Compliance with Consent Decree, including Community Relations

The following activities were performed during this reporting period:

- The Monthly Progress Report for OU3 for the November 2017 reporting period was submitted on December 11, 2017.
- Responses to USEPA comments and revised plans for the *Draft Remedial Design Work Plan* and *Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan Revision 9* were submitted to USEPA on December 15, 2017.

Problems Encountered, Actions Taken and Their Resolutions

The following problems were encountered during this reporting period:

- None.

Analytical Results and Data Received During the Reporting Period

The following analytical data were received during this reporting period:

- None.

Modifications to the OU3 Work Plans or Schedules

The following modifications to Work Plans for OU3 or other schedules proposed to USEPA were submitted during this reporting period:

- None.

Anticipated Plans, Actions and Data Scheduled, including Community Relations (during the Next 8 weeks)

The following activities are planned for the next eight weeks:

- A site tour with the USEPA to visit locations planned for pre-design investigation and pilot testing activities is planned for January 2018.

² Pursuant to Section VI. Paragraph 12.c(1) of the CD, USEPA approval of the OU3 SOW was received on June 26, 2017.

Estimate of the Percentage of the Work Completed

The following provides a qualified estimate of the percentage of the Work required by the CD that has been completed through this reporting period:

- Less than 1% of the work required under the OU3 SOW has been completed to date.

Delays Encountered or Anticipated, and Efforts Taken to Mitigate

The following delays were encountered during this reporting period:

- None.

Closing

Pursuant to section X, paragraph.30 of the CD, three hard copies of this monthly progress report have been submitted to the designated recipients. If you have any questions or comments regarding this monthly progress report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Roy Duckett
Nominated Project Coordinator OU3

cc: *via electronic mail*
Michelle Grainger – USEPA, Region 2
Lauren Piana – Rio Tinto
Bruce White – Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Bruce Kennington – Project Coordinator OU1 and nominated Project Coordinator OU3